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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/450,757	11/30/1999	HIROTAKA ISHII	040281-0118	8146

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EXAMINER

KIBLER, VIRGINIA M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2623

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2003

11

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/450,757	ISHII ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Virginia M Kibler	2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 and 3-11 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1 and 3-11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 November 1999 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ . 6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 4-6, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Levison et al. (5,465,303).

Regarding claim 1, Levison et al. (“Levison”) discloses a fingerprint reader unit to input a fingerprint to be detected 108 (Figure 1), a database unit 114 to record a fingerprint database provided in advance, a fingerprint comparing unit 116 that identifies the input fingerprint input by the fingerprint reader unit by comparing with fingerprints stored in the fingerprint database recorded in the database unit, and a user recording unit that records the fingerprint input by the fingerprint reader unit, wherein the user recording unit records the input fingerprint only when the fingerprint comparing unit does not identify the input fingerprint (Col. 25, lines 6-10).

Regarding claim 4, Levison discloses an image data processing unit to process the input fingerprint 110.

Regarding claim 5, Levison discloses the user recording unit records the input fingerprint transmitted from the image processing unit, and the transmitted input fingerprint includes processed data of the input fingerprint (Col. 22, lines 1-2).

Regarding claim 6, Levison discloses a feature extraction unit to extract a feature count from the input fingerprint 208 (Figure 2a)

Regarding claim 10, the arguments analogous to those presented above for claim 1 are applicable to claim 10.

Regarding claim 11, Levison discloses temporarily storing the input fingerprint to be detected (Col. 22, lines 1-6) and recording the input fingerprint in the permanent user recording unit from the temporarily stored fingerprint only when the input fingerprint to be detected does not match any of the reference fingerprints in the database (Col. 25, lines 6-10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levison et al. 5,465,303 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Moulton (4,186,378).

Regarding claim 3, Levison discloses the user recording unit recording the input fingerprint transmitted from the image processing unit (Col. 22, lines 1-2). Levison does not seem to recognize including raw data of the input fingerprint. However, Moulton teaches that it is known to store raw data (Col. 1, line 56). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the recording unit disclosed by Levison to store raw data of the input fingerprint, as taught by Moulton, in order to for the image to be fully restored.

5. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levison et al. (5,465,303) as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Jain et al. (6,185,318).

Regarding claim 7, Levison does not expressly state that extracted feature count results in a compact data size. However, Jain et al. (“Jain”) teaches that it is known to compress attribute or “feature” data (Col. 15, lines 14-16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the feature extraction unit as disclosed by Levison to include compact data size, as taught by Jain, in order to increase storage capacity.

6. Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levison et al. (5,465,303) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Swonger et al. (4,210,899).

Regarding claim 8, Levison does not appear to recognize including a date counter. However, Swonger et al. (“Swonger”) teaches that it is known to include a date counter that provides a date record (Col. 2, lines 9-10) used to generate a recording history (Col. 2, line 27). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the fingerprint identification to include a date counter, as taught by Swonger, in order to provide an accurate record for access control.

Regarding claim 9, Levison does not appear to recognize using the fingerprint identification for access control. However, Swonger teaches that it is known to use a fingerprint identification device for access control (Col. 1, line 53). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the use of the fingerprint identification device disclosed by Levison to include using it for access control, as taught by Swonger, in order to identify a person requesting access to a building or service.

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Virginia M Kibler whose telephone number is (703) 306-4072. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. -Thurs. 8:00 - 5:30 and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au can be reached on (703) 308-6604. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

VK
June 19, 2003



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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